

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 07197 271123Z

10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

(ISO) W

----- 019553

O 271030Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9331

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7197

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS PFOR CG

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE: FOLLOW-UP ON THE
KISSINGER AND RUMSFELD VISITS

REF: SECDEF CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE 4676 DTG 122204Z AUGUST 76

1. I HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE THAT WE REPLACE GENERAL ROCKWELL'S RECOMMENDED "IMPACT PACKAGE", WHICH INCLUDED HELICOPTERS, TANKS, APC'S AND ARTILLERY, WITH A \$20 MILLION PACKAGE CENTERED ON ARMORED CARS. AND I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESENTATION OF SUCH AN IDEA AS THE ONLY OPTION TO MOBUTU WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN A VERY NEGATIVE REACTION WHICH COULD WELL BE COUNTER TO OUR INTERESTS IN ZAIRE AND TO THE SECRETARY'S STRATEGY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT EARLY LAST YEAR WE TRIED IN THE FIRST ROCKWELL REPORT TO TELL MOBUTU THAT HE DID NOT REQUIRE AND COULD NOT ABSORB SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. MOBUTU REJECTED THAT REPORT, AND WHAT APPEARED TO ZAIRE AS AMERICAN UNRESPONSIVENESS IN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FIELD WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE DOWNTURN IN US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS LAST SUMMER. THEN, FOLLOWING THE ANGOLAN WAR, WE DISPATCHED THE SECOND ROCKWELL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KINSHA 07197 271123Z

MISSION TO ASSESS ZAIRE'S NEEDS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE

INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONS IN ANGOLA AND OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES. AT THAT TIME, AND DURING THE CONSULTATIONS HERE OF BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY RUMSFELD, MOBUTU MADE CLEAR HIS HOPE THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE DEFENSE ASSISTANCE THAT COULD HELP BALANCE THE HEAVIER AND MORE MODERN ARMS NOW IN THE HANDS OF HIS POTENTIALLY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS. MOBUTU HAS TWICE MENTIONED TO ME REPORTS THAT WE WILL SUPPLY F-5S TO KENYA. IN SUM, A PROPOSAL THAT ZAIRE SETTLE FOR ARMORED CARS (WHICH THE GOZ HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO, BEFORE ANGOLA, BUT HAS LONG SINCE DROPPED AS A PRIORITY) WOULD BE SEEN AS INSULTING BY MOBUTU AND PERHAPS WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY HIM AS EVIDENCE THAT OUR PROMISES OF SUPPORT WERE LESS THAN SERIOUS. HE WOULD BE NO MORE IMPRESSED BY AN OFFER OF ARMORED CARS OVER THE NEXT YEAR AND HELICOPTERS/TANKS DOWN THE ROAD A FEW YEARS.

3. A MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE APPROACH, IT STRIKES ME, WOULD BE FOR US TO EXPLAIN TO MOBUTU THAT THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IN THE WAY OF APPROPRIATIONS THIS YEAR IS ABOUT \$40 MILLION AND IN THE LIGHT OF THIS FIGURE GENERAL ROCKWELL HAS RECOMMENDED TWO ALTERNATIVE PACKAGES FOR DELIVERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (E.G., OVER THE NEXT EIGHT MONTHS), BOTH OF WHICH CAN BE BUILT UPON SUBSEQUENTLY TO FLESH OUT THE OVERALL FORCE STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED IN THE FINAL REPORT. THESE OPTIONS ARE:

(A) THE ROCKWELL IMPACT PACKAGE WITH HELICOPTERS, TANKS, ETC. THIS OPTION ATTEMPTS TO RESPOND TO ZAIRE'S PERCEIVED NEEDS BUT IS CONSTRAINED BY AVAILABILITIES; THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, 10 TANKS ARE THE MAXIMUM WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE OVER THE NEXT EIGHT MONTHS.

OR

(B) THE PACKAGE CENTERING AROUND THE ARMORED CARS. THIS OPTION MAKES GOOD SENSE TO US BECAUSE OF TACTICS AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. THEN WE WOULD ASK MOBUTU FOR HIS OPINION -- GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS ON MONEY AND AVAILABILITIES.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH AND URGE THAT A DETERMINATION BE MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS THAT THE EQUIPMENT IN THE CURRENT ROCKWELL PACKAGE -- SPECIFICALLY THE TANKS AND HELICOPTERS -- WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IF MOBUTU CHOOSES THIS OPTION. LASTLY, IF MY RECOMMENDATION IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KINSHA 07197 271123Z

APPROVED, IT WOULD SEEM A GOOD IDEA TO SEND A DOD TEAM HERE AT THE TIME OF PRESENTATION WITH THE MISSION OF EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE AND RELATIVE MERITS OF THE ALTERNATIVE PACKAGES. IF WELL DONE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT MOBUTU WOULD APT FOR THE ARMORED CAR PACKAGE.
CUTLER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA07197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-0954
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760813/aaaaakus.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE: FOLLOW-UP ON THE KISSINGER AND RUMSFELD VISITS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, CG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006